

17 March 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

MID MURRAY RESPONDING TO COVID-19 THREAT

The Mid Murray Council is preparing and reviewing its operations in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the health and safety of its staff and the community, and the continuity of local services.

Senior staff have met to consider Council's Business Continuity Plan and will continue to discuss and consider the current advice from the State and Federal Governments, and to enact plans locally to assist in reducing the spread of the virus.

Mid Murray Council Chief Executive Ben Scales said the Council has already taken immediate steps, including contacting local event organisers to postpone community events in line with Government advice.

"While our communities work hard to create vibrant, fun events and experiences in our district, we are encouraging them to reconsider staging any large gatherings at this time in the interests of public health and safety," he says.

Tours aboard Council riverboats *PS Marion* and *PS Mayflower*, including the inaugural River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve cruise, have been postponed until at least the end of the month.

"This is an ever-changing situation, so we are keeping up to date on the latest advice from the State and Federal Governments and the Australian Government's Department of Health and continually reviewing how this will impact on all of our operations," Mr Scales says.

"We will have more detailed discussions over the next few days about how the situation may impact other Council operations. As soon as decisions are made, we will be communicating these with our community as quickly as possible."

The Council is urging anyone who has travelled overseas to check the Australian Government's self-isolation requirements online (www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert) and for the community as a whole to observe stringent personal hygiene practices.

"Adhering to the Government's self-isolation measures if you've been overseas or are experiencing symptoms is a critical step in slowing the spread of the virus," Mr Scales says.

"Ensuring we all wash our hands regularly and thoroughly, cough or sneeze into our elbow or shoulder and stay away from others if we're unwell, will assist in protecting the more vulnerable members of our community from this disease."

Further updates will be provided in the coming days.

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